

[Name of Document] Claims

[Claim 1]

A content reproduction apparatus, comprising:

a group ID storage section for storing a group ID produced uniquely in a unit of a user when said content reproduction apparatus is registered in a unit of a user into a management server;

a radio transmitter section for transmitting a content stored in a content storage section to a different apparatus by radio communication;

a radio receiver section for receiving a content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication;

a reproduction permission/inhibition decision section for deciding, based on a group ID added to the content received by said radio receiver section and the group ID stored in said group ID storage section, whether or not the content received by said radio receiver section can be reproduced;

a reproduction execution section for reproducing the content received by said radio receiver section when said reproduction permission/inhibition decision section decides that the content can be reproduced;

an ID recording section for recording a content ID

corresponding to the content reproduced by said reproduction execution section and the group ID added to the content into an ID storage section; and

a data communication section for transmitting, where a content distribution server which provides a download service of the content and said content reproduction apparatus are connected to each other directly/indirectly, the content ID and the group ID recorded in said ID storage section to said content distribution server.

[Claim 2]

The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said content reproduction apparatus is composed of a body section and a headphones section, and

said body section includes said radio transmitter section, said ID recording section and said data communication section while

said headphones section includes said radio receiver section, said reproduction permission/inhibition decision section and said reproduction execution section.

[Claim 3]

The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a reproduction permission information setting section for applying reproduction

permission information for permitting reproduction of the content to be transmitted from said radio transmitter section to the content.

[Claim 4]

The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reproduction permission/inhibition decision section decides whether or not the content can be reproduced based on the reproduction permission information applied to the content received by said radio receiver section.

[Claim 5]

The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display control section for outputting, when said radio receiver section receives a content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication, that the content is received to a display apparatus.

[Claim 6]

The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a reproduction control section for controlling, when said radio receiver section receives a content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication, said reproduction execution section to interrupt reproduction of a content

stored in a storage medium provided in said content reproduction apparatus and reproduce the content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication.

[Claim 7]

The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said reproduction control section controls, when said radio receiver section receives a content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication and reliability information included in the content has a value higher than a predetermined value, said reproduction control section to interrupt the reproduction of the content stored in the storage medium provided in said content reproduction apparatus and reproduce the content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication.

[Claim 8]

The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said reproduction control section controls, when said radio receiver section receives a content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication and the group ID included in the content and the group ID provided from a server for providing the download service and having a high degree of reliability

coincide with each other, said reproduction control section to interrupt the reproduction of the content stored in the storage medium provided in said content reproduction apparatus and reproduce the content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication.

[Claim 9]

A content processing apparatus, comprising:

a connection decision section for deciding connection with a content reproduction apparatus which stores a group ID produced uniquely in a unit of a user when said content processing apparatus is registered in a unit of a user into a management server;

a first communication section for receiving, when the connection is decided by said connection decision section, a content ID and the group ID stored in said content reproduction apparatus;

a second communication section for transmitting the content ID and the group ID to a content distribution server which provides a download service of a content; and

a content storage section for storing a content corresponding to the content ID transmitted from said content distribution server and received through said

second communication section;

the contents stored in said content storage section being transmitted to said content reproduction apparatus through said first communication section.

[Claim 10]

The content processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second communication section receives reliability information corresponding to the group ID from said content distribution server, and

said first communication section transmits the reliability information received by said second communication section to said content reproduction apparatus.

[Claim 11]

The content processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second communication section receives a group ID having a high degree of reliability from said content distribution server, and

said first communication section transmits the received group ID having a high degree of reliability to said content reproduction apparatus.

[Claim 12]

A content distribution server, comprising:

a content database in which content IDs and

contents are stored in an associated relationship with each other;

a reliability information database in which group IDs each produced uniquely in a unit of a user when a content reproduction apparatus is registered in a unit of a user into a management server and reliability information are stored in an associated relationship with each other;

a data receiver section for receiving a content ID and a group ID stored in said content reproduction apparatus directly/indirectly;

a content search section for searching for a content corresponding to the content ID;

a reliability information updating section for updating, when a group ID and a content ID are received by said data receiver section, reliability information corresponding to the group ID; and

a data transmitter section for transmitting the content searched out by said search section to said content reproduction apparatus directly/indirectly.

[Claim 13]

The content distribution server according to claim 12,

wherein said content search section searches, when

said data receiver section receives the group ID,
reliability information corresponding to the group ID,
and

said data transmitter section transmits the
reliability information to said content reproduction
apparatus directly/indirectly.

[Claim 14]

The content distribution server according to claim
12, further comprising a reward setting section for
setting, in response to the reliability information, a
reward to the corresponding group ID.

[Claim 15]

A content reproduction controlling method for
controlling a content reproduction apparatus to reproduce
a content, comprising:

a group ID storage step of storing, into a group ID
storage section, a group ID produced uniquely in a unit
of a user when said content reproduction apparatus is
registered in a unit of a user into a management server;

a radio transmission step of transmitting a content
stored in a content storage section to a different
apparatus by radio communication;

a radio reception step of receiving a content
transmitted from the different apparatus by radio

communication;

a reproduction permission/inhibition decision step of deciding, based on a group ID added to the received content and the group ID stored in said group ID storage section, whether or not the received content can be reproduced;

a reproduction execution step of reproducing the received content when it is decided at the reproduction permission/inhibition decision step that the content can be reproduced;

an ID recording step of recording a content ID corresponding to the reproduced content and the group ID added to the content into an ID storage section; and

a data communication step of transmitting, where a content distribution server which provides a download service of the content and said content reproduction apparatus are connected to each other directly/indirectly, the content ID and the group ID recorded in said ID storage section to said content distribution server.

[Claim 16]

A content processing method for controlling a content processing apparatus to process a content, comprising:

a connection decision step of deciding connection

with a content reproduction apparatus which stores a group ID produced uniquely in a unit of a user when said content processing apparatus is registered in a unit of a user into a management server;

a first communication step of receiving, when the connection to said content reproduction apparatus is decided, content ID and the group ID stored in said content reproduction apparatus;

a second communication step of transmitting the content ID and the group ID to a content distribution server which provides a download service of a content;

a content storage steps of storing a content corresponding to the content ID received from said content distribution server into a content storage section; and

a transmission step of transmitting the stored contents to said content reproduction apparatus.

[Claim 17]

A computer program for causing a content reproduction apparatus to execute:

a group ID storage process of storing, into a group ID storage section, a group ID produced uniquely in a unit of a user when said content reproduction apparatus is registered in a unit of a user into a management

server;

a radio transmission process of transmitting a content stored in a content storage section to a different apparatus by radio communication;

a radio reception process of receiving a content transmitted from the different apparatus by radio communication;

a reproduction permission/inhibition decision process of deciding, based on a group ID added to the received content and the group ID stored in said group ID storage section, whether or not the received content can be reproduced;

a reproduction execution process of reproducing the received content when it is decided at the reproduction permission/inhibition decision process that the content can be reproduced;

an ID recording process of recording a content ID corresponding to the reproduced content and the group ID added to the content into an ID storage section; and

a data communication process of transmitting, where a content distribution server which provides a download service of the content and said content reproduction apparatus are connected to each other directly/indirectly, the content ID and the group ID recorded in said ID

storage section to said content distribution server.

[Claim 18]

A computer program for causing a content processing apparatus to execute:

a connection decision process of deciding connection with a content reproduction apparatus which stores a group ID produced uniquely in a unit of a user when said content processing apparatus is registered in a unit of a user into a management server;

a first communication process of receiving, when the connection to said content reproduction apparatus is decided, content ID and the group ID stored in said content reproduction apparatus;

a second communication process of transmitting the content ID and the group ID to a content distribution server which provides a download service of a content;

a content storage steps of storing a content corresponding to the content ID received from said content distribution server into a content storage section; and

a transmission process of transmitting the stored contents to said content reproduction apparatus.